



# News release

Ministry of  
Education

Ministry of  
Colleges and  
Universities

Communication Services Branch  
Mowat Block, 14th floor  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

82-24

September 9, 1982

Ref: Bill Clarkson/S. Rajagopal  
956-7191

For Release on Receipt

The Ontario Student Assistance Program provided financial aid to more than 78,000 students for the 1980-81 school year.

A review of the program, released today by Colleges and Universities Minister Bette Stephenson, shows that the Ministry provided a total of \$186.36 million dollars in student assistance in 1980-81. Of the amount, \$81.02 million was in the form of grants and \$105.34 million in loans.

The Ontario Student Assistance Program is composed of four plans - three of which are funded by the Ontario Government. The Canada Student Loan Plan, the fourth component of the program, is financed by the federal government through the Secretary of State.

The objectives of the program are to encourage and assist academically qualified and financially needy Ontario residents to go on to post-secondary

over



education, to ensure equal opportunity for students from low income families and to provide various forms of financial assistance to meet the diverse needs of these students.

Dr. Stephenson said the review shows that the program is meeting its major goal of serving low income families. She said that 84% of the students who received grants in 1980-81 had a gross family income of less than the 1980 Ontario median of \$26,274.

In 1980-81, 29.38% of students in full-time studies in Ontario universities and colleges received aid under the program.

Dr. Stephenson said that although the size of the average award showed no appreciable change, there was an increase in the number of awards over \$2,500 because students' costs for fees and living expenses had increased.

Students who require financial assistance for the 1982-83 academic year may still apply. Applications are available at any Ontario college, university, high school guidance office and from the Student Awards Branch.